

Dear Mike,

2/24/88

I've opened this envelope to call to your attention the fact that if you had used the commentaries you've not used you would have told your readers what President Reagan stated in his press conference he could not disclose as a matter of national security - who is behind the Arab violence in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. That I did this from the public domain is its own kind of commentary on "national security." That your in-house expert has, despite all those many column inches in all those columns, has yet to even suggest that there is any Arab violence, leave alone inspiration and leadership of it, is its own kind of commentary on him and his unique genius.

Yours for more jewels like Secretary Of State Bush's meeting of tomorrow being next week, one of the many stupidities I did not comment on in my haste,

Harold

Mr. George Delaplaine
News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

2/24/88

Dear George,

If for some months there had been any doubt about your intent that your papers spout evil incitations to race hatred that difference only in degree from what Hitler and his gang regurgitated from classic fakes, today's obscenities by your junior-grade Goebbels removes that doubt.

It above all the rest of his evil also makes it apparent that he is playing you for a sucker and that you either don't know enough to realize this or don't care. Not about your reputation and not about the reputations of your papers.

It also is apparent that you have told your people not to put a pencil to even his grossest errors and stupidities or that they believe this without being so ordered.

Moreover, it is apparent that you are either suspending or terminating actual refutations of this Mein Kampferlei that you publish so often or delaying it so long that it can mean little to the readers whose minds you are ripping off and is made to appear to be personal when it is not.

If you had published any of the five commentaries I volunteered that have been suppressed, it would not have been easy to publish today's outrages without being laughed at. You and Roy Meachum both. (Please feel free to show this to him. He won't respond to me and he can say anything to you and get away with it, but give him a chance anyway. He has yet to face any of the factual criticisms I have made. He ~~can't~~ ^{can't} as you should know; or you don't care because you want him to do what he is doing.)

He is playing you for a sucker because he could say just about the same things without lying or just making it up as he goes or flaunting his ignorance and other than journalistic intentions. As I illustrate, limiting myself to what he represents as facts and you assume responsibility for - and even pay him for.

In reading what follows why don't you also ask yourself what people who are not ignorant think of you and your papers when they see this kind of stuff.

The omnipresent lie is that Israel controls the U.S. government by controlling American Jews who control the Congress. In what is supposed to be support of this lie he says, from the top:

That because George Schultz now has Moscow's "gift" of more emigration permits for Russian Jews, clearly for months Gorbachev's stated policy, but to your phony and his following phony purposes it is ^{is} new and a gift) there has been a coinciding "diminishment in South Africa's repressions (which) leaves Israel in the world's eyes as today's principal agent for human suffering."

How modest your boy is to speak only for the rest of the world!

There is ~~now~~ less repression in South Africa? He sure as hell isn't quoting Nobel Laureate Bishop Tutu, is he? Or anyone else, including the multitudinous victims of South Africa's racism, in addition to its own multitudes, in Mozambique, Namambia, and Angola.

What about Iran and Khoumani? Or is he immune because he is Islamic?

Even hear of Iraq and what it has been doing since it attacked Iran? (I made passing reference to this in one of the pieces you are suppressing?)

More suffering than in Afghanistan?

Aside from the catalogue of human suffering in other Islamic lands, which won't interest you or him, did you ever hear of Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge and what has been going on there for years, ever since Nixon intruded there?

Are you so contemptuous of truth, fact and reality or are you so uninformed you assume all the others who read and talk about your papers are as uninformed? Or do you enjoy being a laughingstock when serious people who are not ignorant and prejudiced read this kind of stuff? And so much more *like it*.

"Not since Stalinist days have human rights been under such assault in the Soviet Union. South Africa has yet to sustain a comparably extended campaign. (Wow, 300 years is not as long as 60 years. Boy, do you and he get carried away. Or do you want also for him to lie in support of South Africa?) But then apartheid foes have never shown the sustained (meaning 300 years is not "sustained") willingness of the Palestinians to accept mutilation and death."

The last part of this unadulterated concoction further defames the multitudinous blacks who have "sustained" precisely this for so long, so continuously, and to this very day, including so many school children they can't be counted.

You can't look at TV or anything other than a jerkwater sheet without knowing that the beginning of the above quote is the exact opposite of the truth. When before the present Soviet administration did you see a Sakharov and so many, many others like him on TV? How many Jews are and for months have been granted exit permits more than, say, ^{after} when Reagan began his "evil empire" tirades? When did you see such controversy in Soviet publications about human rights and so many other abuses, or hear of them? If there is one thing about the Gorbachev administration that is beyond rational question it is that he has vigorously and very publicly done the exact opposite of your ~~yes~~ ^{what} shameless liar in residence makes up and you publish when it appears to be expedient to him. This is not praise of the USSR because its record remains deplorable, but Meachum just made this up and that is ^{what} ~~what~~ your papers want and pay for- propaganda and seemingly expedient lies.

"Since December, thousands of men, women and children have been beaten systematically by occupation force," referring to Palestinians. Now if he had not have to

^{gild}
~~like~~ his lily this would be, in context, merely dishonest, but he always gets carried away. And putting "systematically" in makes it a lie. There have been beatings and deaths, the deaths being but a minor ~~fact~~ fraction of the killings of Muslims by Muslims recently, but it is not "systematic." It is, from all accounts in all the media, in response to violence and rioting. I know of no exceptions.

"Due process has no meaning for Arabs in today's Israel." He is so careless and unedited and so much in a hurry to do other things instead of earning what you pay him he forgot to include where this all started, Gaza, which is not in or part of Israel.

The actuality is that despite the present terrible situation Arabs in ~~all~~ Israel and the ~~xxx~~ two territories it has not annexed (yeah, he forgot about the West Bank & above, too) enjoy more legal rights than most of the Islamic world. He doesn't like this so he makes ^{it} ~~it~~ ^{isn't} true but it is, and in another of those pieces you suppressed I quoted competent authorities on this. I also compared the conditions of Palestinians in ~~the~~ Gaza when under Egyptian occupation and now. If I remember correctly, one of the authorities I cited is a Muslim scholar. And I also had a few illustrations of what is going on ⁱⁿ the Muslim world, fratricide-like, and ^{on} other human rights and due process. Due ^{process} and the Arab world? Maybe you don't know, but these two are mutually exclusive, for the most part.

Next he cooks up a doozer on trading human lives and human rights, again ignoring the actualities in the Islamic world about human rights, and of all things inappropriate, the protection of the rights and property ^{of} ~~of~~ Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank ^{which is why Israel is trying to curb the violence} and he may intend Israeli citizens who are Arabs, too, it is only fair that "in exchange for U.S. efforts to receive broadened emigration from Moscow" these Palestinians should for the first time get the rights they have, by and large, always had.

First of all, the U.S. is not "receiving" these broadened emigrations. A few only come here, the famous ones. The rest go mostly to Israel. Second of all, it is merely propaganda to represent that this is the result of the Schultz effort. It has been and is increasingly Gorbachev's intent and policy. You can check this for yourself by asking AP for the statistics for this year so far and last year and the two previous years.. Of course if you read anything other than your own paper, you would have known ^{this} ~~this~~. (And your own columnist, who has yet to address any of the basics of these many situations)

Of course fact and reality mean nothing to you or to him, ^{but} ~~but~~ you ought to be able to find a source other than me and what I've written and you suppressed for the actualities of the legal rights Palestinian Arabs have today and have had and you ought have little trouble getting a competent comparison of these actual rights with those in pretty much the rest of the Islamic world. Or do you and he think that Iran, Iraq and Syria are not part of the Islamic world? But I suggest ^{it is} fit for comparison

purposes.

"Col. Higgins' fate can be expected to figure in Mr. Bush's Middle East talks ~~this~~ ^{the} this week." It is not only that I gather from Mr. Dole that Mr. Bush is in hiding, I gather from even your papers that he is not Secretary of State and is not in or going to that area now or next week. (see what I mean by your people being afraid to edit any of ^{the} ~~this~~ ^{dirty} stupidities, and stupidities is really praise of some of it.)

"...Shamir rejects all suggestions" is hardly true. He has, for example, never ^{is} devoted from insisting that he, too, will abide with the Camp David accord, which Egypt negotiated with Israel at Camp David and Israel has lived up to. Your makeup man has yet to mention that this guaranteed autonomy for the West Bank Arabs, but those who are provoking and controlling the present rioting want nothing less than the end of Israel and it is unchanged in their charter. Can it be that you, so-great expert on all things, including the Middle East, hasn't heard that Shamir supports negotiating with King Hussein of Jordan and representatives of the Palestinians other than the PLO, about whose murders and other excesses your famous one has been totally silent. Except, of course, for saying that terrorists are not terrorists, only the moral equivalent of our founding fathers, true patriots.

I could go on and on but there is no purpose in it. I have no reason to believe that this time and effort also will not be wasted. As you can see, I'm rushed.

But quite aside ^{from} ~~for~~ the real evil for which you are personally responsible because of your position on the papers, aside from the preaching of hatred day after day or rather column after column, aside from deceiving and misleading the people who trust you and make you and your interests wealthy, have you no personal standards? No self respect? No sense of right and wrong, decent or indecent, moral or immoral, ethical or unethical?

If you do not believe that he is playing you for a sucker, I suggest that you go over this column again and ask yourself if he gave a damn about you and the papers if he could not have spent a few minutes more and accomplished the same, albeit dishonest end, without making this spectacle of you and your standards, if there are such when you continue to publish him. All I point out ^{as} ~~is~~ not true could have been omitted and he could have said the same thing. Even more effectively.

But he has you personally in his pocket ^{obviously} and he doesn't care enough to avoid silly, stupid, ignorant or careless mistakes. You'll love it anyway, he'll get paid anyway, so what the hell?

If you do not think after reading this that you are disgracing yourself and your papers, ask your wife to read it. Or Mike Powell, whom I've never even seen and don't know or even have reason to know what he thinks. Or anyone who isn't a political ignoramus or ideologue ^{and} who is not afraid of saying what he might think you ^{would} want to hear. This is and has been utterly shameful, George. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Harold

Tomorrow Secretary of State George Shultz arrives in Jerusalem, bearing the gift of Moscow's agreement to expand emigration for Soviet Jews. A great victory for human rights!

The irony cannot be lost. This further chipping away at Moscow's "evil empire" image, accompanied by a diminishment in South Africa's repressions, leaves Israel, in the world's eyes, as today's principal agent for human suffering.

Not since Stalinist days have human rights been under such assault in the Soviet Union. South Africa has yet to sustain a comparably extended campaign. But then, apartheid foes have never shown the sustained willingness, as the Palestinians, to accept mutilation and death.

Since December, thousands of men, women and children have been beaten systematically by occupation forces. Hundreds more have suffered gunshot wounds. Over 60 Arabs have been killed, including 10- and 12-year-old boys.

No one has recorded the number of post-midnight raids on sleeping families in their homes, the hospital patients pulled or driven from their beds, and the men and women, of all ages, tossed into jails. Due process has no meaning for Arabs in today's Israel.

Under the circumstances, it would seem fair for Mr. Shultz to request that, in exchange for U.S. efforts to receive broadened emigration from Moscow, Jerusalem grant full civil rights to Israel's 750,000 Arabs and assurances of protection for the person and properties of 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

At the same time, Secretary Shultz might, with justice, insist that Israel pull back from Lebanon; it continues to control a wide swath of that country, south of the Litani River.

Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins was taken hostage last week inside this so-called "security zone." He commanded a United Nations observer force whose presence was demanded by Jerusalem, as a condition for pulling back its "regular" army from Lebanon after the 1982 invasion, now considered Israel's "Vietnam" by many of its citizens.

Col. Higgins' fate can be expected to figure in Mr. Bush's Middle East talks this week, but not Israeli continuing control over a large slice of Lebanon. In fact, I can recall no significant U.S. protest over the security zone. Washington has opposed all attempts within the United Nations to return the territory to Beirut.

Furthermore, at this stage, there is no sign that Jerusalem is willing to entertain any suggestions that it make any changes of substance in its present policies and actions, in any area, in any way.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejects all suggestions by insisting that

"Israel is no banana republic." Of course, he's right.

The United States never in its history poured billions annually, for decades, into any other nation. In addition to this year's \$4 billion-plus in government aid, U.S. citizens provide hundreds of millions to prop up Jerusalem's programs. In fact, Israel's economy would collapse without American subsidies.

But Mr. Shamir's "banana republic" taunt was based on another fact of America's history. Never before has any foreign power exerted such influence in the corridors of Washington power. Israel consistently commands controlling allegiances in the Congress. That influence appears unshaken, despite the staggering revelations of Jerusalem's seeming disregard for human rights in the occupied territories. This is the biggest brake on Mr. Shultz as he attempts to re-establish an American presence in the Middle East.

As a result, the secretary must constantly look over his shoulder, back to Capitol Hill, as he makes the latest round of shuttle diplomacy. In the Middle East, nations have learned that, whatever American intentions, Israel holds the last word over U.S. actions.

In truth, as this week's Soviet talks showed, Washington has more success in dealing with arch-enemy Moscow than in winning concessions from its "very special" friend Jerusalem, even when human rights are at stake.

For their part, the Palestinians plan to greet Mr. Shultz with massive demonstrations. It takes no prophet to foretell that more will die, if not in the next few days, then in the weeks and months ahead, as they have for the past 20 years. The difference now lies in the fact that they have finally gained the world's attention.

Significantly, Palestinians have dealt themselves a role in Israel's 40th anniversary celebration of its modern existence. Already, their uprising has caused a 22 percent drop in anticipated reservations from abroad for the ceremonies due to pick up full steam in late April. Here exists the possibility of real pressure on Jerusalem. Aside from depriving Israel of important revenues, continuing demonstrations will result in devastating loss of face for the Likud-Labor coalition government.

If Anwar Sadat was right, and the key to peace in the Middle East lies in justice for the Palestinians, then "the children of the stones," as the Arabs call the demonstrators, may yet wind up gaining what PLO bombs and guns never could, a home for the homeless people of the camps. And that would be another victory for human rights!

This much is certain. There can be no peace in the Middle East as long as any people are deprived of their dignity as human beings.

Roy Meachum

Ford 7/24/88
Human rights



Mr. George Delapdaine
News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

2/25/88

Dear George,

I wrote you in haste last night after reading the Meachum column with the Orwellian title "Human rights," I should say while still shocked that you can publish such incredibly irresponsible stuff, particularly after all the factual criticism was and without exception remained not only unrefuted - undenied.

In reading today's papers, the WxPost and Christian Science Monitor, I realized that I should have said more than that Bishop Tutu does not agree with your in-house expert on international affairs and almost anything else - of which he is at best abysmally ignorant. I say "at best" because I have no doubt that mostly he is just mendacious and indulging hatred and coming back at me the only way he dares, with more of his fabrications and preaching of hatred.

He said and without any question by you or anyone else at the Post you published about as monumental falunting of ignorance of ~~me~~ deliberate lying ~~to~~ as I can recall - that repression is diminishing in South Africa. His second graf.

HE DID MAKE THIS UP, AS HE CAN'T deny about most of what I've addressed, because daily for years the human rights situation there has grown worse, and if he is not aware of the facts he ought not be pretended he is writing them and you ought not be publishing them, not at least by traditional American standards.

The actuality is that there has been 20 months of what is called a "state of emergency" in which there are virtually no legal rights for the majority. Can you call this as he did, a reduction in repression?

This is by no means an exception. It typifies his writing when he gets into international affairs, one of the matters about which he appears to have conned you completely, especially ^{on} the Middle East.

Again, whether it is ignorance or more mendacity is not that important, he said and uncritically you published, after two years of reminders of what he has been doing, that "Shamir rejects all suggestions." I've marked a few of the proofs that this is either a deliberate lie or more of his ignorance, which almost matches his ego. Israel did agree to the accord Carter negotiated at Camp David and as I told you today's reports repeat, he wants to talk in terms of that agreement, not be sliced like salami once again.

It happens I don't like any of Shamir's policies. But would you want to sit down and try to negotiate any kind of an agreement with those who persist in a state of war against you for 40 years after their first defeat and who have been defeated repeatedly since then? Would you believe you could take the word of those who refuse to agree to peace in this state of war and who have the declared policy of destroying you? Yet in all the extraordinarily many so-called columns you have published there has never once been any mention of this or anything else that backgrounds the present terrible situation. Including Arab terrorism against Arabs, beginning in Gaza and including a lynching yesterday. This has been growing from the first, when it began with threats and slashed tires of those who would not go on strike, then expanded into the trashing of the businesses of those who would not close their businesses down, and has since ~~grown~~ grown into physical violence.

These are only a few of the many things you either are not aware of or don't care about. There is so much more than informed people will hold against you and the papers. On this human rights thing, for example, have you any idea how many civilians have been killed by the death squads run by some of the Central American governments?

Some 60,000 in El Salvador, more than the total casualties on both sides in Nicaragua. There is a meager hint of the situation in Honduras in a clipping I enclose. The army there is assassinating even the human-rights commission members and those who are to be witnesses in official proceedings. These things, despite you've con man's columns, have not happened in Gaza, which has enjoyed rights denied for more than the 20 months of the state of emergency in South Africa.

It is not merely Jews and blacks who, if not ignorant, will be asking themselves about your papers when they are offended by both insults to them and their intelligence and the fact that their local papers are making themselves into propaganda organs against their interests.

Not knowing what you have time to read, I do send these clippings so you can see how absolutely incredible it is that you can persist in publishing what not only offends so many people - it demeans you and your papers and raises questions about integrity and the preaching of race hatred. Compare this with his yesterday's column.

However you look at it, he is this ignorant or this dishonest, your integrity and that of your papers are involved.

Do you ~~want~~ want people to think of you and your papers as propaganda sheets and to think you have no regard for truth or decency or for them and their opinions and beliefs?

His opinions are a separate matter. Whether you share them or not, in this and so much more than I have addressed with facts you besmirch yourself.

On another aspect, if you had not suppressed what I sent in about three weeks ago you'd have told your readers what President Reagan said last night he could not disclose for "national security" reasons, the identities of those organizations that stirred up and perpetuate the mess in Gaza and the West Bank. I did identify and describe them and give a few names. Now if I could do this - and I did - what the hell kind of "expert" are you paying to smear your own reputation when he either didn't know it or didn't include it in all those too-many columns?

He's got you conned or you want him to do what he has been doing. Either way you don't look very good and most people in your position wouldn't feel very good about it.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg